

Govt allocates 30bn/- for research to boost Kilimo Kwanza

By Felister Peter
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The government has allocated 30bn/- to be directly used for research activities in the fiscal year 2010/2011.

Speaking to reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) board chairman Professor Burton Mwamila said the funds would be used to solve different problems in the research sector, especially in the areas of agriculture, livestock and fisheries so as to ensure successful implementation of the Agriculture First initiative.

Mwamila said the funds would also be used to train scientists at diploma level, adding that the researchers to be trained would be sent to different areas to support farmers in the implementation of 'Kilimo Kwanza'.

He said the funds would also be used to improve research training at the university level, purchase important laboratory equipment, conduct agricultural research and duplication of modern seeds from various research centres countrywide.

"We are very grateful to the government. We promise to spend the money for the targeted purposes only. We will ensure that the results of the funds expenditure bring development to the community," he said.

The chairman said that COSTECH would ensure that all the research results are taken to farmers for implementation.

Mwamila said that in February last year, President Jakaya Kikwete said that it was important for the country to set aside 1 per cent of its gross domestic product for research activities.

He said in their stakeholders meeting in March this year, Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda also said that the government had now decided to invest in research activities.

SOURCE: THE GUARDIAN